AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph commencing on page 9, line 11, as follows:

In this manner, for example, in Fig. 9, a peak position 41 and a peak position 42 are detected as peak points. This process is performed through 360 degrees, that is, in all edge search directions. Moreover, at this time, the acquired gray-scale profile is temporarily stored in a memory of the host computer [[18]] 118.

Please amend the abstract as follows:

A micropattern measuring method discloses herein ~~comprises~~ includes acquiring an image of a micropattern including plural layers; extracting a rough outline of the micropattern in the image as a sequence of points including plural points; dividing the plural points composing the sequence of points into groups; making each of the groups as each of patterns belong to any of the plural layers; and acquiring edge coordinates of a pattern to be measured from the patterns which are made to belong to the respective layers.